

Amendments to the Claims:

1-15 (Cancelled)

16. (Currently amended) ~~The magnetic chromatography test strip of Claim 11 further comprising:~~ A magnetic chromatography test strip for performing a bioassay comprising:

a) an elongate backing having first and second opposed ends and an intermediate portion;

b) first and second absorbent pads formed upon respective ones of said first and second opposed ends of said backing;

c) a lateral flow mesh formed upon said intermediate portion of said backing and between said first and second absorbent pads, said lateral flow mesh facilitating a bilateral flow of a reaction mixture toward said absorbent pads via capillary action;

d) a vertical flow mesh formed upon said lateral flow mesh, said vertical flow mesh facilitating flow of the reaction mixture downwards toward said lateral flow mesh via capillary action and gravitational forces; and

e) a magnet proximately positioned disposed underneath said intermediate portion of said backing.

17. (Currently amended) The magnetic chromatography test strip of Claim 16 wherein said magnet is disposed underneath the backing, directly beneath said vertical flow mesh and said lateral flow mesh.

18. (New) The magnetic chromatography test strip of Claim 16 wherein said magnet is permanently affixed underneath said intermediate portion of said backing.